

than the British did from the Germans. A good rear guard with plenty of machine guns can make the advancing troops pay very heavily for every yard of territory that they gain.

(Enclosure in diary)

MERRIS CAPTURED BY AUSTRALIANS
GERMANS SURROUNDED

British Official

Tuesday morning.

We captured a few prisoners last night in successful raid near Ayette (south of Arras). Shortly after midnight Australian patrols entered the enemy's positions about Merris (near Bailleul). Forty prisoners have been taken by our troops in the locality.

Hostile artillery has been active with gas-shell northwest of Albert, and has also shown activity at a number of points between La Basse Canal and Ypres.

Evening—During the latter part of the night the patrols of the first Australian Division, who had entered the German positions about Merris, successfully established themselves east of the village, which was surrounded and captured. One hundred and sixty-nine prisoners and a number of trench mortars and machine guns were taken by us. Our own casualties were remarkably light. A few additional prisoners were captured by our patrols during the day in the Nieppe Forest sector (southwest of Merris).

Hostile artillery has shown great activity today against our new positions at Merris.

Daily Mail, July 31, 1918.

We need more artillery at the front and plenty of ammunition so that we can have and maintain a superiority of fire. If we could get sufficient of our guns in position and then supply them with sufficient ammunition so that a continuous fire could be maintained on the German line, particularly to the rear of the very front lines, I believe we could steadily advance without such serious losses as we are having at the present time. Then again we need more and heavier aeroplanes. We should have a continuous stream of aeroplanes passing over the German lines and on into Germany, not only bombing the huts, powder factories, manufacturing plants, depots, etc., but the cities, particularly Berlin. This would have more effect in breaking down the German morale than anything else, and I believe would lead to peace very shortly.